July 2015

Virginia IEP

VDOE is in the process of establishing new working groups to review forms for Functional Behavioral Assessments,
Behavioral Intervention Plans, and Manifestation Determination Reviews

If you are interested in participating, please contact
Andrew.Greenidge@doe.virginia.gov

Virginia IEP Newsletter

Working Groups Complete RFP Requirements and Revise IEP Forms

The four working groups established by the Virginia IEP Advisory Group recently completed the following endeavors:

Requirements Working Group: Twenty-three members participated in several opportunities to contribute recommendations for mandatory and desired system requirements that would represent a broad spectrum of users. The group finalized the list of user requirements that are being used to develop the Request for Proposal (RFP) which is anticipated to be released later this summer.

Sample IEP Forms Working Group: Twenty-one members reviewed the current state sample IEP forms and suggested revisions. Changes recommended by the group included minor language changes, streamlining the forms (e.g., adding check boxes and eliminating redundancy), and adding a few fields. The final recommendations currently are under review. The new forms will be available to divisions in August 2015.

Eligibility Forms Working Group: Twenty-one members reviewed the current state sample Eligibility Forms and suggested a few minor revisions. The final recommendations currently are under review. The new forms will be available to divisions in August 2015.

Communications Working Group: Six members meet monthly to plan outreach strategies and contribute topic ideas and content for the Virginia IEP newsletter. Recently, the group oversaw the development of content for the new Virginia IEP Web site.

Contents

Articles

The Need for a System

Historically, Virginia's 132 public school divisions have employed and managed their own IEP forms and systems to meet their needs. Currently, approximately 95 percent of Virginia school divisions use one of ten different commercially available online IEP systems.

Time and again, special education professionals in Virginia have told us that there is a clear need for consistency and uniformity in IEP forms, processes, and data collection. In addition, this lack of uniformity often makes interdivision transfer processes extremely difficult. To address these issues and to increase compliance, stakeholders felt that a unified statewide system would be the best possible solution.

Participation in the proposed statewide online IEP system will be voluntary. We expect it to be available for the 2016-2017 school year.

FAQ
Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the state planning to provide a statewide online IEP system?
Stakeholders have expressed interest in such a system for a long time. After conducting focus group meetings and interviews and surveying divisions on whether there is support for such a system, the Virginia Department of Education concluded that providing a system would streamline processes and enhance compliance.

Will adopting the system be mandatory for all Virginia public school divisions?
Participation in the system is voluntary.

When will the system be available to divisions?
We are planning to launch the system for the 2016-2017 school year.

What types of changes were made to the state-recommended sample IEP forms?
Changes to the forms fall into the following categories:

IEP Forms
1. Clarifying language
2. Improved use of check boxes
3. Increased options for divisions to customize their IEPs (e.g., separation of PLOP into multiple sections)

Eligibility Forms
1. Clarifying language
2. Improved use of check boxes
3. Minor re-ordering of some criteria worksheets
4. Adding sample forms

If we have additional questions, is there someone we can contact?
You may email Andrew Greenidge at Andrew.Greenidge@doe.virginia.gov.